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NASHVILLE—Tennessee's unemployment rate for the month of August is 4.6 percent, down from 4.9 percent in July, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development Mark Reineke announced today. The state rate remains below the August national rate of 5.7 percent.

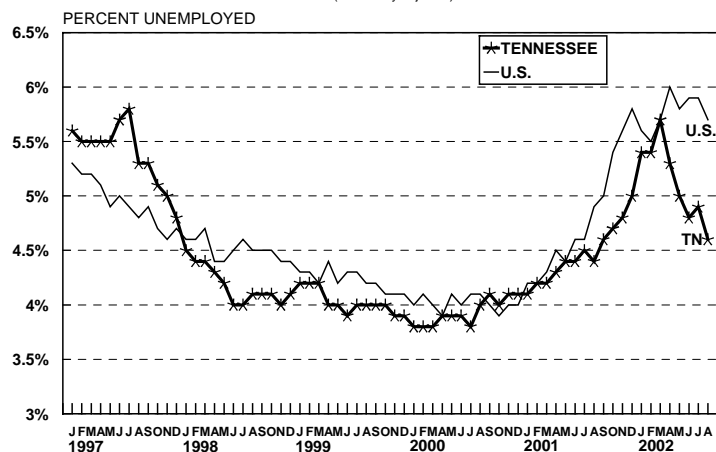
"It is always encouraging to see the unemployment rate go down for several years. Our rate has consistently been below the national rate," Reineke said. "Tennessee's economy, however, continues to experience slow growth along with the rest of the country. The drop in the August rate is due to an increase in education jobs with the return to school

in the fall. It does not, however, provide evidence that the sluggish economy has begun to grow rapidly again."

July to August figures showed employment increased in local education jobs by 9,800. Retail trade also increased by 1,500 jobs. Local government jobs declined by 600. Amusement/recreation jobs declined as well by 500, due to the end of summer vacation.

From August 2001 to August 2002, services grew by 15,700 with the biggest increases in health and business services. Major decreases took place in manufacturing, down by 10,800, with the greatest losses in durable goods. Transportation jobs decreased as well by 6,400 and construction declined by 2,200.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES - U.S. & TENNESSEE
JANUARY 1997 - PRESENT
(seasonally adjusted)



LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES SUMMARY - TENNESSEE

August 2002 (preliminary) - BM 2001

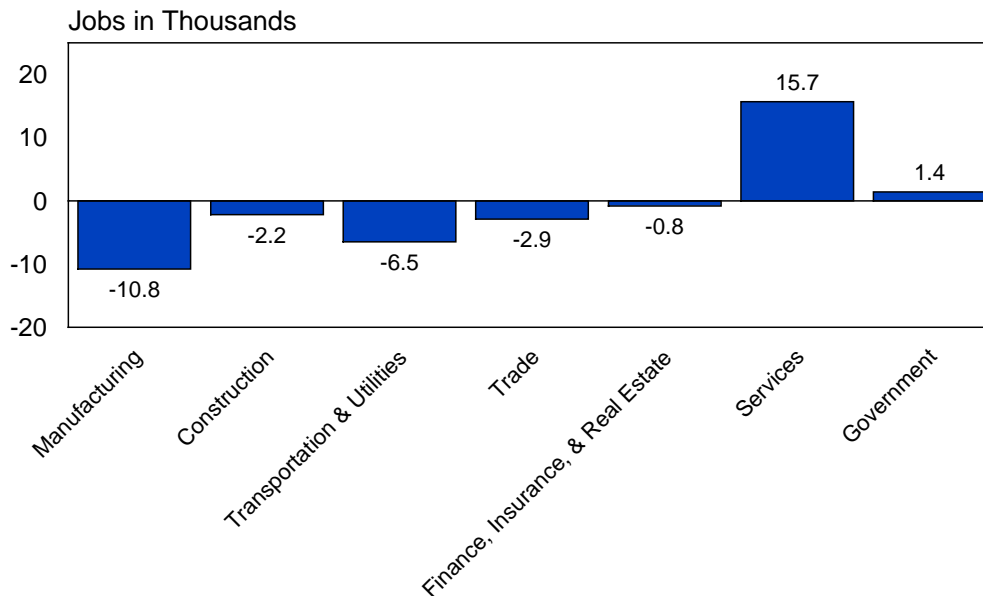
<i>Seasonally Adjusted</i>	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate		Rate Change
				Aug.	Jul.	
UNITED STATES	142,616,000	134,474,000	8,142,000	5.7 %	5.9 %	-0.2 %
TENNESSEE	2,866,500	2,735,000	131,500	4.6	4.9	-0.3

Not Seasonally Adjusted

UNITED STATES	143,176,000	135,028,000	8,148,000	5.7 %	6.0 %	-0.3 %
TENNESSEE	2,891,300	2,754,800	136,500	4.7	5.2	-0.5

OVER THE YEAR JOB CHANGES

By Major Industry (Aug 2001-2002)



County and MSA rates will be released on Thursday, September 26, 2002.

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(02-092)

NOTE: Information will be available on the Internet; enter "http://www.state.tn.us/labor-wfd/labor_figures". Sound may be obtained from the Governor's NewsLine at 1-800-342-1483 or Nashville area 741-4877.

NOTE: Tennessee's employment and unemployment statistics are based on two major surveys. The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a survey by place of residence providing estimates on the number of people in the labor force, total employment, unemployment, and the unemployment rate. Beginning in January 1992, the CPS data are seasonally adjusted for all states as directed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The business survey collects data by place of work and creates information about jobs in various industries. The business survey data are non-seasonally adjusted at this time.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.